Whatever Happened to

The Class of '47?

Wilmington High School Alumni Life Stories

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The Class of '47?

Wilmington High School Alumni Life Stories

Albert Manson

Emily Clements Doucette

May, 2003

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Forward

One of the major reasons our 55th reunion was so outstanding was that many of us were updated on what has happened to each other since our graduation. Hearing each person tell of his or her life since 1947 was fascinating to the classmates and their guests. Several people said they wished those who spoke had provided a written record so they could be referred to later. Others stated that it was too bad that those who did not attend were unable to share their stories or hear ours.

At the reunion, several classmates left their e-mail addresses on a list. As a result, e-mail messages were sent to each other referring to it as "the best ever." It was through these messages that an idea was born. We decided to follow through and create this book. In no time we had a group of enthusiastic workers and we were off.

The purpose of this book is to let us live a little in the past, provide us with a token of sentimentality and satisfy our curiosity about our classmates. I'm sure as you read this you will be proud of the way the members of your class turned out. The class of '47 is not limited to those who graduated in 1947, but includes members who were part of our class in prior years, who attend our reunions and consider themselves as part of our group.

What started out as a chore, became an obsession and finally a passion. Talking to classmates that we hadn't seen for over fifty years was a truly pleasant experience. Old friendships have been renewed and we are ready and anxious for our 60th reunion.

Acknowledgements

We should all thank **Liz Huntley White, Gerry Porter Doane, Charlotte Moore Stewart** and **Sis Wandell Bell** for their tireless efforts on our behalf.

To those who shared their life stories, we thank you for your efforts. Without you this book could not have been written.

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One of the questions was "are you married, single, children and grand kids, hobbies and any successes."

All of the above and single again. However not really single – you can lose a wife but it seems you never lose the kids nor grand kids. Ruth & I had four children: Sharon is a CAD (computer program designer) for General Motors; Gerald is retiring from Stahls Metal Fabrication and opening his own business as a piano technician; Jennifer just returned from Africa where she has been serving as a missionary (teaching English as a second language); Steve is City Manager for Lee's Summitt, MO. These four have given me ten grand kids who are 4-25 years old.

After college at Wm. Jewell and seminary at Central American Baptist Seminary, I served 32 years with Baptist: three wonderful churches for ten years each. Also I represented 1800 churches as I served on the Executive Board as an elected official for several years. This gave me the opportunity to preach in many of these churches. During this time I returned to Seminary and became a mentor for six students per year.

Becoming disenchanted with the growing conservatism of this denomination, I left to help the Missouri Division of Family Services. HIV & AIDS were deleting so many young people. Help was available but they had not the energy nor time to apply. For the next six years I worked to re-invent governmental assistance. The program allowed one application to meet the needs of ten agencies in Jackson County. This allowed a patient to receive, within 24 hours, assistance for all which he/she was entitled. During these six years, we applied this type of assistance to the Mentally Handicapped as well as HIV/AIDS person.

My greatest joy was when the church I attended, and in which I taught a class, arranged with the bishop to have me take nine more hours at St. Paul Seminary and become a pastor there. It is the Central United Methodist Church, serving the Kansas City Plaza area and University of MO/KC, a flag ship of the western conference. Though now retired, I still am excited about working with these fine folk. I am the hospital visitor, standby for funerals and weddings, and director of the Mather Class (a group of 75-100 professional retirees your age).

In recent years my partner, Don Robertson, and I have purchased 6 properties and oversee the restoration project on them. In 1995 one of our properties was completed and furnished in the age of our birth (1930). This was chosen as the home for display by Historic Kansas City and was on tour. These last four years we have completed a rambling ranch located in the block between Mission Hills, KS and Ward Parkway, MO. This is the place now called home.

Life is full of surprises – one heart attack and stroke; while learning to walk again one fall that took a while to heal. I have a gratitude for plastic as it exists in both ears, five blood vessels, both eyes, bracing both feet and a square of it is in my hip pocket providing this trip east to see you.

Mary Bemis Pittman
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Wilmington, MA 01887-1602

When I graduated from high school, I did what a stream of other girls did, we all headed for the John Hancock Insurance Company in Boston. It was an easy place to get a job. If Wilmington High School folded up, I swear the John Hancock Insurance Company would have folded up as well. But, work there I did, until I got married.

In 1950, I met my husband, Charley Pitman, from Tewksbury. He and his friend, Arthur Fosse, owned Jack's Diner on Grove Avenue in Wilmington, by Silver Lake. Charley and I were married in 1951. We have a daughter and a son, four grandchildren and two great grandchildren. It doesn't seem possible that I am old enough to have two great grandchildren (they are girls).

Charley was a career navy man. He served during World War II, Vietnam and the Korean conflict and was called back into service a couple of years after we were married. Charley and Arthur then sold Jack's Diner. Arthur Fosse enlisted in the Marine Corp. Luckily, Charley was stationed locally most of the time, serving in Boston, and a short while in Rhode Island. He served in the navy for 21 years.

Working as a Plant manager for a company in Winchester, Charley also attended New Hampshire College and received his degree. He worked there after serving in the navy, for about ten years.

Now retired, Charley started working on a part time job in customer relations for ADTCO in Billerica, to keep himself occupied. Somehow it evolved into a full time job and he still works there at the age of 75. He loves it.

We have done some traveling, vacationing in Ireland, Aruba, the Bahamas, Bermuda and have also taken a Disney cruise and trip with family members. We also went on a Caribbean cruise with Marge and Tom Hill. We have enjoyed some really "fun times."

My days are filled with time spent with my children and grandchildren. Our swimming pool out back provides our family with entertaining days during the summer. I also do church volunteer work at St. Dorothy's church.

Only rarely do I see former classmates in my travels around town. At one time, running into classmates like Charlotte Moore or Liz Huntley, and a few others at DeMoulas Market was commonplace. Wilmington has grown so large that seeing a familiar face nowadays is a rare event. I think we grew up during the town's best years. We were the luck ones.

Robert Bertwell
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Even though my grandmother was born in Prince Edward Island, Canada, I still consider myself a true Wilmington stalwart. My mother was born in Wilmington and my great grandfather, Austin Hall, owned and operated a farm on Chestnut Street. Gracie Dame Santo's father and my dad went to school together. My roots go deep in Wilmington, along with my love for my "hometown." I built my own house on Lowell Street in 1954 and still reside there with my wife, Pauline (Donald Cail's sister). We were married in 1950.

From high school, I went to work for a Ford automobile agency for one year. Drafted into the army, July, 1950, I was not called to duty until January, 1951. It was off to Fort Stewart, Georgia, where it took me seven months to earn the rank of corporal. Being trained as a radar operator, I also learned to drive the trailer truck with anti aircraft guns while stationed in Michigan. I was in the service for two years. Eventually, I did earn my high school diploma.

Back home again, I was employed in the construction industry as an apprentice learning the trade. When the owner of the company I worked for at the time died, his son took over the business and I became lead man. We were successful in our endeavors and had the distinction of working for WBZ Television station in Boston, constructing various sets for television celebrities like Jack Chase, Don Kent and Rex Trailer. It was interesting, challenging work. I was pleased to be a performer on one of Rex Trailer's shows. I became an instant celebrity. My family loved it.

I started my own business taking on a partner in Tewksbury. Called the "Jewell Manufacturing Company," we made camper tops for trucks, etc. It became a lucrative business employing about 25 workers. Eventually, the need for this product phased out.

In 1979, I became employed by the Newton-Wellesley Hospital in charge of major reconstruction work on the hospital and had a crew of ten to twelve employees. I retired from this job in 1994.

Since retirement, I have kept busy by spending summers at our family retreat in Lovell, Maine, where I vacationed as a child. Our cottage is located on the waterfront of Cushman Pond. Famous author, Steven King, also owns a place in Lovell.

My hobby is restoring antique cars. This is an ongoing passion that has driven me to build a garage for them. A 1930 pickup truck I own was in the Wilmington 250th celebration parade and merited a picture in the local newspaper, *The Town Crier*, which made me very proud. I also own a 1928 Ford sedan and am now working on a recently purchased 1965 Ford Mustang.

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I was very sorry to miss the last reunion. As I recall, Ann and I had committed ourselves to an Elderhostel program in California. Anyhow, let me give you a run-down on my major activities over the past 56 (ugh) years. I attended Lowell Tech (now UMass Lowell) and received my BS and MS degrees and then went to work in Connecticut at US Rubber Co where I remained for about three years. In 1954 I accepted an offer to teach at my alma mater. That involved a considerable reduction in salary, but I never regretted it. I took a two year leave of absence in 1955 for a tour of duty with the Army, serving in Maryland and Okinawa. Just prior to going overseas Ann and I got married (thought she'd be able to join me but such was not the case). A little side story at this point …Ann was sharing an apartment on Commonwealth Ave. in Boston with two other girls, and John Good (classmate of ours until he went to Keith Academy) was sharing an apartment in the same building with a couple of guys. I would drop by quite regularly, and eventually became serious with Ann, and John wound up marrying Ann's roommate, Carol. They live here in North Andover and we get together quite often.

After my discharge from the Army I returned to Lowell and advanced through the ranks and finally retired after 40 years of teaching. Ann and I moved into our first home (a 200 year old farm in Pelham, NH) in 1957. Our three children were all born there and we moved to North Andover in 1972. Daughter, Lynn, graduated from Ohio U. with degrees in physics and mechanical engineering. She and husband, Milan, with children (Kristina, and Nickolas) live in La Habra Heights, CA. She is a computer consultant. Son, Karl, married Karin Ott and they live in Chelmsford with son and daughter (Daniel and Susanna). Karl received his degree in mechanical engineering from UMass Lowell and is an engineer with Philips, Inc. Son Paul married Rita Benoit. They have one daughter, Alison, and they live in Livermore, CA. Paul got his degree from UMass Lowell also, and is director of engineering for Ultratech Corp. It was a rather interesting experience for Karl, Paul and myself during their years at U Mass – having their father as one of their teachers. It actually went very well. Ann received her BS degree from UMass Lowell the same year as Paul. She is currently active with the University as a consultant in the technical writing program.

My interests center mostly around woodworking. I did a major upgrade on our original house in Pelham. Then we bought a piece of land in Maine and I built a summer home there in 1975 which we sold a few years later and traveled up coast to Waldoborto where I built our present summer home in 1980. A couple of years later, I built the house we now live in here in North Andover. I love to make pieces of furniture and do cabinet work. I'm no super star but it keeps me busy and off the streets.

Ann and I have been doing some volunteer work mentoring students in the Lawrence school system. We do an occasional Elderhostel program, and have made a couple of trips to Europe.

The only members of our class that I have occasional contact with are Burtt Holmes and John Good. Dick and Eileen Montgomery (Class of "46) and my cousin, Helen (Bedell) Ouelette (also '46) are welcome visitors to our Maine home

Emily Clements Doucette
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How lucky could I be? The house where I grew up was just a few steps away from Silver Lake. I used to walk out the front door and jump in the lake for a swim before breakfast. The same applied to ice skating in winter. All our entertainment was just a stone's throw away. I felt fortunate to be living there.

When we moved to Wilmington, I was in the fifth grade and had to take the school bus to the Center School. In winter we would walk across the frozen ice to take a shortcut to the bus stop. Sometimes the ice would make pounding noises and crack right under our feet. It was frightening.

After High School, everyone swarmed into Boston, like locusts and I was no exception. Finding a job in the Publicity Department of Little, Brown & Co., was a lucky break. I loved working there. Each day brought new excitement. Famous authors like Evelyn Waugh, Ogden Nash, the Sitwell's, bandied about the office on occasion. I attended night classes at Boston University during that time and had made many new friends. I rode the subway more than "Charlie of the MTA." I became familiarized with every nook and cranny in Boston and was enamored by it all.

I met my husband Walter Doucette, from Tewksbury, and we married in 1950. We lived in Tewksbury for 29 years until he passed away. I have three children. Daughter, Claudia, and husband are both school teachers. Son, Walter, Jr., is Supervisor of the Tewksbury gas plant. Son, Gregory, is a heavy machine operator. I have seven grandchildren. We spent our summers at our home at Lake Winnipesaukee, N. J. and took ski outings with our children during the winter months, when they were growing up. Walter and I had started to travel to places like Spain, Mexico, Hawaii, etc.

After my husband's demise, I found myself in a business whirl of real estate and finance. As ignorant as I was, I wanted to stand at the "helm" and not lean on my children. My two sons were still living at home. I didn't have a lot, but did have a lot of problems. Racing around town, I would seek out people "in the know" and pick their brains. I befriended an astute business man who took pity and taught me well. We became best friends, a platonic relationship. He recently passed away. Somehow, I came through all these tumultuous times unscathed.

After my two sons married, I sold my house in Tewksbury, and moved in with my daughter for a short while. From there, I decided to take a long vacation. I journeyed to Israel alone and booked tours from there. After seeing Israel, I became enthused and wanted to see more. I traveled to Egypt and then took a bus tour throughout all of Europe. I was gone for six weeks.

From Lowell, I moved to Florida for the winter. Moving to Florida was like leaving the "real" world and stepping into "fantasyland." Of course being able to play tennis had everything to do with it. My tennis friend from home introduced me to Pompano Beach. It was love at first visit. I hated to leave. The Silver Thatch Tennis Club, where I played tennis each day, had an interesting array of friendly people from all parts of the country and world. I was invited to parties galore. All of a sudden my world opened up to a new way of living. It was a perfect place for a single woman, so I bought a condo and made Florida my permanent home.

I met my gentleman friend from Pittsburgh, Remus Lula (born in Romania) while playing tennis there as his doubles partner. Remus is metallurgist and was a consultant/lecturer to companies around the world. He flew in and out of Florida often. We have remained together as companions ever since (22 years). I did not wish to marry again so he decided to buy a condo of his own, a few buildings away from mine. I started to travel with him on his business trips to many countries like South Africa, India, Japan, etc. After the revolution in Romania, we made annual trips there visiting with his relatives and friends. I have grown to love Romania and have adopted this country as my "second home." Remus and I also took many cruises and tours, crisscrossing the globe many times to over eighty countries. We both agree that these have been the happiest years in our lives.

Classmates I have stayed in touch with are Sis Wandell, who is, and always was, my invaluable friend and mentor. Charlotte Moore and I go way back. I am an admirer of her accomplishments. I enjoyed many happy days socializing with Virginia Day, Peggy Denton, Eileen Hitchcock, Podgie Johhnston. Spending time in Boston with Peggy Denton and roaming through the North End is one of my favorite pastimes. We have become close friends. Virginia Day and I visit each other and keep in touch quite often. Virginia holds the "secret key" for knowing how to enjoy life.

Besides playing tennis in Florida, I have many other interests. Taking all sorts of classes, lectures and volunteering at working toward improved pain control and palliative care in this country are some of the things that keep me on the go.

There have been many moments in my life to treasure. The memory of my youth in Wilmington is high on that list, along with my school days and dear classmates. Bless you, each and every one.

Grace Dame Santo
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Two must definitely be my lucky number. Everything in my life seems to come in two's. I have two children, a boy and a girl, two grandchildren, and can you imagine, two great grandchildren. Not so lucky, was having two marriages. My first one, unfortunately, ended in divorcee, but the second time around I got it right. My husband, Frank, and I have been married 52 years. Frank is retired from the Sweetheart Plastics Company.

Would you believe I even have two homes, one in Wilmington, and the other at Lake Winnipesaukee, N. H., which we have owned for thirty years. After marriage, my first home was in Tewksbury. From there, I moved to Beacon Street in Wilmington, and then another move to my present address at Blackstone Street. It is across the street from where I was brought up. Isn't that a coincidence two homes in Wilmington? I live across the street from my father who is almost 95 years old, still employed and has a lady friend. I think my dad must be indestructible. Incidentally, he attended our 55th reunion.

I am presently employed full time by a Human Resources Medical Company that makes expensive heart pumps. I am waiting for them to hire a part time replacement for me, so that I will only have to work a few days a week. Frank and I would like to enjoy longer weekends at our New Hampshire home.

My life is full and good (two again). Working during the week, packing and unpacking for our weekends in New Hampshire, provides for a very busy lifestyle. I don't have time for anything else. My family and job and two homes to care for take up all the time I have.

You cannot imagine how happy I was to hear from my former classmates. We shared so many wonderful days together in our youth. These are memories one never forgets. Where have all those years gone?

Peggy Denton Capobianco
357 Commercial Street
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Boston, MA 02109

Packing and unpacking my suitcase has become a way of life for me. I am presently employed as a Tour Manager for Collette Vacations. This keeps me on the move and I adore my job. I am going to work as long as I can. Remember, it's not over 'til it's over. Having traveled throughout the country and the world both as a tourist and Tour Manager is about exciting as it gets. I have to study about the different places I am headed for and this helps keep me mentally alert and on my toes.

Moving to Wilmington from Somerville, when I was in the ninth grade seems to surprise a lot of people. Most thought I lived in Wilmington a much longer time that that. Everyone commented on my Irish Setter dog with the same color red hair I had at the time. My dog, Rusty, and I were inseparable. I guess I always was, and always will be, an animal lover. Besides the little girl in Zambia that I take care of financially, I also donate to animal causes. These are my favorite charities.

When I left high school, I attended Lowell Academy and became a beautician/hairdresser. I worked at the Parker House in Boston until I went into business for myself and opened the "Carlmar Beauty Salon" in Wilmington. After three years, I sold my business.

Carl Capobianco and I were married in 1949. We build our home on Glen Road in Wilmington. After moving away from there, we bought a large farmhouse in Andover, with eighteen acres of land where we started breeding Arabian horses in 1963. In 1969, I joined "Weight Watchers" and worked as a lecturer for them for 23 years.

In the early seventies, we sold our farmhouse and bought forty acres of land across the street in North Andover, which adjoined the Harold Parker State Forest. We built our home, a separate indoor riding hall with an observation room, office, and an apartment upstairs. We also built a forty stall barn for our horses. Our land was situated on a hill that overlooked the North Shore and the skyline of Boston in the distance.

Attending horse shows around the country and running our breeding farm gave us great pleasure and satisfaction. We had many successes and are proud of the many trophies we have acquired over the years.

My two children, a son and a daughter, share our enthusiasm for horses and love animals. They both own Arabians. My son, Chip, is a Breeding Manager for one of the largest Arabian horse farms in the country. His only child, daughter Travis, won the United State National Championship in an all Arabian horse show in Oklahoma. They live in North Carolina. My daughter, Carlene, is a self-employed real estate developer and has three children. She enjoys horseback riding, is very creative and excels in interior decorating. Carlene and her family live in Georgia.

When we sold our farm and horse breeding business in North Andover, I moved to downtown Boston, in the Prudential Center at Copley Square. It was a different lifestyle and I loved it. From there, I purchased the condominium I live in now at Lincoln Wharf in Boston's North End. I enjoy my view overlooking Boston Harbor and Logan Airport. It is in close proximity to the airport, making it easy for me to commute back and forth working as Tour Manager.

Remember Virginia Day (Borgatti)? She and I were Maid of Honor at each other's wedding. We have kept in touch through the years, along with Eileen Hitchcock (Thibeau) and Marjorie Johnston (Dyas) and Emily Clements (Doucette). We partied a lot in the old days and spent many happy moments together. On occasion, we visit Ginny at her home in Maine and Emily at her condo in Florida. Emily always spends a few days with me before heading back to Florida on her Massachusetts visits.

Many new friends have come into my life over the years, good, caring friends. But my high school classmates have always been, and always will be, the sisters and brothers that I never had. I guess you can't beat that.

Bernie Doucette Lynch
23 Delaney Avenue
Tewksbury, MA 01876

After High School, I went to business school in Boston. They located a job for me at the First National Stores offices in Somerville, where I worked for four years. I then found a job that was nearer to home at the J. W. Greer Company in Wilmington. That is where I met my husband George. We met while bowling in the Greer bowling league together.

George and I were married in 1950 and lived in our home on Grove Avenue in Wilmington, for twenty-eight years until he passed away. During the time I was married, I worked for the W. T. Grant store at the Wilmington Plaza doing office work for nine years. After the store went out of business I went to work for T. J. Max in their store office.

I moved away from Wilmington after my husband died. I joined my twin sister, Beatrice, who lives in Florida, north of Tampa. I lived there for six years but just couldn't take the heat and humidity and decided to move back up north again. Bea and I always keep in touch by phone at least once a week. She just got a new computer and trying to call her now is frustrating. The line is always busy.

I returned to Tewksbury, in 1996 to an apartment that friends told me about. Due to high expenses, I later applied for elderly housing and was accepted. I live there now and love living here since it is conveniently located near the center, shopping, church and the Tewksbury Senior Center, which is where I spend most of my days. They provide for much of my entertainment. I even learned how to play pool (billiards) there and that is one of my favorite pastimes now. I have met a lot of people from Wilmington there and also made many new friends.

I used to keep in touch with former classmate, Alice Rooney, and sometimes Liz Huntley. I also saw Charlotte Moore once in a while, but the only time I see them now is at class reunions. I enjoy my hobbies of arts and crafts and also enjoy making puzzles. I take numerous tours and trips to different places which I enjoy.

Living and growing up in Wilmington, on Parker Street, I was one of eight children. My twin sister, Beatrice, and I were always together back then. I never thought I would end up living in Tewksbury, but I do love living here.

I have always enjoyed our school reunions and hope to see you all at another one. Love to all.

Estella Downes Flynn
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Stoneham, MA 02180

The reason why I did not make the last reunion is because my husband had recently passed away. He suffered from lung disease and a bad heart for three years before he died at age seventy-four, in January, 2002. We celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary in October, and he died the following January. We got married in 1951, and had a good life together. We moved to Stoneham after we married and lived in our first house for fifteen years, then moved across the street to my present home for thirty five years. All my wonderful neighbors have lived in our neighborhood for that long too. I feel fortunate to live in such a close knit community.

After high school I was employed as a secretary for a wholesale furniture store in Reading, and worked there for five years. I met my husband, Joseph, on a blind date. He was an equipment operator for the town of Stoneham for forty years before retiring.

If I had my life to live over, I probably would have had a career in a field pertaining to children. I have four daughters and nine grandchildren. Most of my time is taken up with baby sitting, a job I really was made for. My love of children and being with them, is my reward in life. Taking care of my neighbors' children, along with my own, keeps me in touch with those I love most.

When not tending to my children, my other hobbies also keep me busy. There is always a jigsaw puzzle on the table, when one is finished, another one is ready to take its place. I love the challenge of doing them. Knitting and taking long walks are also important on my list of things to keep me occupied.

Can you imagine, I do not drive? That has become an inconvenience for me since my husband's demise. However, my children and neighbors always seem to be there to drive me when the need arises. Not driving keeps me in better condition since I have to walk everywhere.

When I moved to Wilmington, I was in the fifth grade. My family bought a farm near the West Street area. Our family consisted of twelve children, eight boys and four girls. I haven't kept in touch with my classmates since moving to Stoneham. Being rather shy as a kid, I kept to myself a lot. I do remember with affection, John Elia's mom and dad. When I first met them they spoke broken English, but they were really outgoing, caring people who made me feel important. Everyone around loved them, I guess. My husband liked the family too and thought John was a "fun" type of guy. Those were the "happy" times I remember in Wilmington. I often visit my brothers who still live in Wilmington.

I visited with my daughter, who moved into a new home in Clermont, Florida (near Orlando). She was insistent that mom see her new place. Many of my relatives on both my father's and mother's side live in Vermont. That is a favorite state of mine. I love it and vacation there a lot. There are plenty of relatives' homes to visit.

Tonight, my oldest daughter is coming over to visit with me. She is fifty-one years old and has cancer in both her breasts, liver, spine and brain. She has had chemo for three years now and is doing remarkable well. She is not bedridden and is up and about. She is always upbeat and is an inspiration to all of us. What can you do, but live it one day at a time.

The greatest blessing I have is my family. It is nice to hear from my former classmates from Wilmington, who haven't forgotten me even though I moved away. It is nice to keep in touch after all these years. I am looking forward to receiving this book of our lives. It should be very interesting.

John Elia
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I was born on January 31, 1929, over the grocery store at the corner of West and Lowell Streets. Mike was also born at home. My mother Olga, sister Olga, and grandmother had come to the USA from Albania two years prior. My father had arrived many years earlier. He pedaled bananas on a push cart. He wanted his kids to live in the country and bought the property in 1923 for $4000. He later went back to the old country and married my mother, and shortly after, brought my mother, sister Olga and grandmother to Wilmington.

I had a very stable youth; we spoke Albanian in the home and had few friends outside of the clan. I went to the Maple Meadow School on Bay Street off Lowell Street across the street from what used to be Avco. The Maple Meadow was a great school, four classes in two rooms with great teachers, Helen Pattin being one of them. Probably the best school I ever attended. I met lifelong friends there: The Moore's, Foy's , Gammon's, Drew's , Palmer's, Hitchock's, Willy Thomas, Bill Peters, Robert Soule, Al Balkus, Ted Wicks, Barbara Murray, etc. The kids I went to the Maple Meadow with turned out to be my best friends forever and I have valued their friendships.

The West Street kids went to the Whitfield for the fifth grade before the Center School. We all met at the Center. It was at the Center School that the rest of us all got together. I have always thought that the kids that were at the Center School were our class, whether or not they graduated.

I was very shy and quiet at this time. Up to this point, English was my second language. My grandmother, who came over at age 65, never spoke English and so we all spoke Albanian in the home. I can remember not having the confidence to raise my hand and answer questions.

I think this was the year World War II started. I remember Sparky Bean marching us out onto the bank in front of the Buzzell School and telling us to go right home before the bombs started dropping.

We went on to high school, which for me was not eventful. I did get over my shyness and with the help of bad people, Soule, Balkus, Swainee, Rufus, and others. We had a good time, and did a little cutting up. Probably no one remembers that I never had a date through high school, never going to the prom or taking girls to the movies.

We had some pretty good teachers at the high school. George Kambour being the best. We also had some lousy teachers, which I will not name. I never got involved in high school sports. I headed home and put in my hours behind the counter. Marguerite says that's why I am good at math. We had no electronic registers in those days, not even the noisy mechanical ones.

A bunch of us went to college in Boston and it was a wonderful time to be going to college. Our classes were half returning veterans at BU. It was the death of the beanie and freshman rah rah.

I went to Boston University, Bill Peters to Northeastern, Jack Reagan to BC, Ted Wicks to Bentley. Liz Huntley also went to BU. Rufus went to Huntington, Muriel to Radcliff, Burtt to Tufts, Fred to Lowell Tech, etc. The Boston crowd all rode the streetcars and trains together and had some great years. We went to bean pot hockey at the Arena and really got to be friends but we argued about everything.

I attended the Boston University College of Business Administration and graduated in June, 1951, with a BS in Business Administration and got married to Marguerite Ryan six days later. My friends thought it was a shot gun wedding but the gestation was three years.

I had qualified for a direct commission in the U.S. Navy as a supply corps officer but it didn't work out as my draft number came up before my time to get sworn in. The navy had no quota for me at the time so friend of the family Henry Chin, a Navy recruiting officer, persuaded me to attend officer candidate school at Newport Rhode Island which I did, earning a commission as an Ensign in June of 19522. That was a challenging program for a business major but thanks to George Kambour, I made it.

From there I was assigned to the mine force in Charleston, South Carolina, on a Mine Sweeper. I spent a year up and down the east coast, on a 185 foot mine sweeper which I enjoyed very much (It was one of the best things that ever happened to me.) even though I suffered from motion sickness and got sea sick every time out. I had all kinds of responsibilities on the ship. I was the operations division officer, commissary officer, supply officer and stood watches as officer of the day as well as officer of the deck.

From there I got transferred to Little Creek, Virginia, the amphibious base where I became telephone officer, and assistant communications officer, as well as division officer, with 85 men. I volunteered for all kinds of schools and one that I was sent to was the School of Naval Justice in Newport which gave me the responsibility of doing trial work, much like JAG on TV but only for special court martials, (incidentally we didn't wear white uniforms while working, that's only on TV). Lee Bailey and Joe Oteri, prominent Boston lawyers, were two of my classmates. I enjoyed the navy, it gave me all kinds of responsibilities and a chance to get out of Wilmington to see and meet others. OCS was a great experience. I met people from all over the country, many from prestige schools. There were 800 in our class, 500 graduated. I was grateful for George Kambour. I probably wouldn't have graduated without his math courses.

I eventually got out in 1954. Michelle, my oldest daughter, was born a month later while we lived with Marguerite's parents in Littleton, MA. Three years later, Meredith was born. I spent a year with a food broker in Boston, and a year at a super market in Lawrence. I later stumbled on a piece of land in North Wilmington across from Buck Bros. which I bought for $1,400.00. This purchase led to us consummating the Buck Bros. purchase. I did it all on a shoe string but we kept at it and made a living. A while later, my brother, Mike, got out of the service and joined me in the business. We modernized the store, did some promoting, eventually buying out Altman's Little Giant Liquors, which gave us additional volume without any additional expenses.

I bought the North Wilmington post office which was paying peanuts in rent and could not jack up their rent so I talked them into me building them a new post office on the lot I had earlier purchased across from the store and we were on our way in the real estate business. Wilmington was growing and I added on to the property getting up to 15 stores in the complex. I acquired other land in Wilmington, the field behind Charlotte's house and Balcom's land along side my father's store, as well as the Minot Anderson property. I did some speculative building in town, building spec housing on land I would pick up. I also built a couple of post offices, which I sold later.

My wife pays me the compliment of calling me a visionary. I bought the house on Salem Street which we still own in 1959 for $11,000. The owners didn't want it because of all the traffic route 93 would generate. A lot of people did not see this as a boon for the town and that it would make Boston 15 minutes from Wilmington.

Soon after we had our third daughter, Tara, who has been living in New York City and working on TV shows, Rosie, Saturday Night Live, John Stewart, Nickelodeon, The Chris Rock Show, etc. My oldest daughter, Michele, was married to Bill and Cathy Jensen's son, Peter, and had me three grandsons,. Meredith went to L.A. and had one son before dying in an automobile accident in Reading.

By accident, I got into the ski business. Most of our "success" came because of obstacles that were put in my way…When we tried to expand the little shop in North Wilmington, which was really a hobby, the town fathers shot us down and we built the Ski Haus on Lowell street which became very successful, becoming number 2 or 3 in New England.

When winter snows didn't come, I would buy out competitors and expand the operation. We ended up with seven stores, Wilmington, Newburyport, Waltham, Salem, New Hampshire, and Acton, as well as two leased departments in the former Coleman's stores. Around 1987, I sold the ski business to Ski Town in Braintree, and 3 years later took the stores back when they went broke. I gave the business to my sister, Helen, and her sons and they are still active. We collect the rent, which is easier than working.

I built more commercial properties and bought some at auction. We are now thinking of selling some of it, even though we just built a new Elia's Country Store, which I think many people like and shop there. I am not active in the grocery business. We have done some traveling, which we enjoy. I've been all over the Caribbean, England, France, Spain, Greece, Turkey, Egypt, Mexico and Korea. I've skied all over New England, Canada and the Rockies. Still skiing at age 74, I have a ski chalet at Mittesill, which is in Franconia, New Hampshire, on the back side of Cannon Mountain. I bought this for a grandson who was suffering from Leukemia. I am happy to say he is in remission and seems to be doing well. We are currently expecting a baby from our youngest, Tara, who married an actor/writer a couple of years ago. I am looking forward to this as I can't keep up with my four grandsons and I need new companions.

Seven years ago, I purchased at auction a former fire station in Oak Bluffs on Martha's Vineyard, that is across the street from the harbor. I remodeled the building, renting the lower level to a sweat shirt shop and we made a loft apartment on the upper floor. We don't get there

often enough but my kids and wife really like it. It's a completely different life style for us. We have great beaches on the island. Celebrities, artists, writers, etc, are always coming and going.

I started playing golf abut 10 years ago. Bob Swain and I played every Thursday during the golf season. Personally, I have been pretty healthy. I have broken bones from skiing, and bike riding which got me in the hospital. I am still able to eat corn on the cob and apples without a jackknife. My wife thinks I have become deaf and my eyes are going. My brother-in-law says they are the 2nd and 3rd things to go.

Best wishes to all my friends and class mates.

Robert W. Findlay
239 Bowery Beach Road
Cape Elizabeth, ME 04107

I. Education

BOSTON UNIVERSITY, College of Business Administration, Boston Mass.
MBA Major field – finance June 1964

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH, Graduate School, Evening College, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
January 1956 to June 1956

BOSTON UNIVERSITY, College of Business Administration, Boston, Mass

B. S. in Business Administration – Major Field, Accounting, June 1955

II, Work Experience Now Retired

July 1967-1993 UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MAINE, Portland, Maine
Professor of Accounting (Emeritus); Chairman of Accounting Department (5 years), Acting dean, School of Business, Economics and Management (8/77-8/79)

July 1960-June 1967 BENTLY COLLEGE OF ACCOUNTING AND FINANCE, Boston, Massachusetts
Associate Professor of Accounting

Feb 1959-June 1960 BOSTON UNIVERSITY, Evening Division, Boston, Massachusetts
Lecturer in Accounting

July 1956 - July 1960 COOPERS E. LYBRAND (Price Waterhouse – Coopers) Boston, Massachusetts
Staff Accountant

June 1955-July 1956 WESTINGHOUSE ELECTRIC CORPORATION, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Graduate Student Training Program in Accounting

Certified Public Accountant – Maine

Seasonal Summer Residence Damariscotta Lake, Noblegold, ME
Winter: Naples, Florida

Family:

Married to Shirley M. Findlay (1955)

Children/Grandchildren:

David W. Findlay, Professor, Colby College, ME

Children Jonathan, Amanda (Twins) 10 years old

Elizabeth W. Bishop, Officer, Bank One, Chicago, IL

Children, Caroline (9 years old), Martha (6 years old)

Gerrie Fitch McKenna
2600 Lakeshore Road
Gilford, NH 03246

It is interesting where the journeys of our lives take us. When I graduated form Wilmington High School in 1947, I had never dreamed of the life I was about to lead. I had spent all of the summers of my life on the shores of Lake Winnipesaukee, in Gilford, New Hampshire. My friends and I, whom had summered there, had definitely decided long ago that we would all either become teachers or nurses. We liked the fact that they had long summer vacations in those jobs and we could meet and lounge together every summer in our wonderful summer paradise. Rainy days always found us at the Colonial Theater in Laconia. We always ended up meeting Mrs. Webber and Julia there. They would be escaping the rain at their summer retreat on Lake Winnisquam. Mrs. Webber was one of my favorite teachers at Wilmington High.

As teachers, we would be fulfilling our civic duties as citizens in our society by helping people learn academically and how to live rewarding lives. We would reward ourselves by having our summers in our chosen paradise. If we were nurses, we would help to save lives and to help make people well and happy. We could swim, sun ourselves on the beach, dance every night in the pavilion, and on special occasions, go to Irwin Gardens at the Weirs to dance and listen to the music and singing of well known bands and personalities.

During the summer of 1947, we listened to our many veteran friends there, just back from WWII. Instead of the gory war stories which were probably haunting their minds, they talked about the opportunities for traveling the world. It sounded intriguing. Having been an airplane spotter (in the field beside the Nitchie's house on Chestnut Street in Wilmington) and a member of the Junior Auxiliary (under the direction of Mrs. Martin) my patriotic heart called to me. "Join the Navy" it said, "and see the world while serving our wonderful country." As I write this, I recall Dorothy Smith telling me she joined up to see the world and met her husband in the Pentagon.

Due to having had scarlet fever at an early age and a water accident in my early teens, I discovered a 90% hearing loss disqualified me from serving my country in that capacity.

In September of 1947, I followed the crowd and the lead of my best friend from summers at "The Lake". I went to work at John Hancock Insurance Company in Boston.

Education reaches out to all of us. It changes our lives and takes us to many places. Across the street from John Hancock Insurance Co. was the YWCA, where I swam almost daily, earning my Senior Life Saving Certificate and soon after my WAI (Water Safety Instructor's Certificate.

Boston Evening School also captured me, where I started studying college level chemistry and law. People had been telling me for years, since I enjoyed a good and intellectual argument so much, I should become a lawyer. It was there that I discovered how well Wilmington High School had prepared us for our lives to come. If I ever thought I was in control of my own destiny, I was soon to learn differently.

I began to have trouble with my right heel. Some kind of fragment, a piece of shell, rock, glass, or whatever had found it's way to the nerve ending and causing any weight placed on that to produce great pain. My choices were an operation or electronic needle treatments. An operation seemed too ominous, therefore, the needle treatments were begun. It seemed that these treatments were still in the experimental stage and results were not entirely predictable. The fragment, and with it the pain, were removed, but it caused a shortening of the tendons which left me with a considerable limp. The expectations were that it was likely the shortening would continue to increase.

I had learned in Sunday School or Rainbow or somewhere, "God never closes one door without opening another." This condition caused me to lose much time at my studies and led me to what was to become a large part of my life's work.

I started ballet training to improve the condition of the shortened tendon. I fell in love with music, dance, gymnastics and the teaching of that whole ball of wax. I was a complete captive. The use of these skills, when developed, led me to using these mediums as a therapy for many problems of children and adults. Doctors and therapists sent many patients recovering from operations, accidents and other aberrations to dance lessons, especially during the horrors of the polio epidemic of the 50's. Therapists were so overloaded, they had no way to handle the needs.

I always knew I loved music from a very early age. In Rainbow, I sang in the choir with many of our classmates. Roberta Hillis, Liz Huntley, Verda Johnson, Dottie Smith, Julia Webber, and another of our classmates, Muriel Martin, accompanied us on the organ. I still often hum that march she played for us. I was not very good at that singing and, in fact, I was so shy, I was frightened half to death.

I continued to be employed at John Hancock while studying dance, elocution, music and related subjects. The dancing led me to joining a Boston based Red Cross Show Troop. We entertained at V.A. Hospitals and army and navy bases all over New England and beyond. Also, and most importantly, this is where I met my husband. Jimmy was an exhibition rollerskater and dancer in the troop. Being a new teacher in the studio where I taught, I was low man (or woman) on the totem pole. Therefore, I was compelled to work with those members of the troop, who did not practice their dance routines. The number of times I threatened to quit if I had to teach that "Jimmy McKenna" one more time, are many. That was when we were in our teens and twenties. While studying and teaching, I continued to be employed at John Hancock for five years to the day, September 29, 1952, when I left to teach full time.

On April 29, 1956, Jimmy McKenna and I were married. At that time, I owned and operated a dance school in Burlington, Massachusetts. I was, and had been for five years, a teacher of dance, gymnastics, cheerleading and drill in Wells, Maine, Elementary, Junior High and High Schools. One of the most rewarding programs I taught there in Wells, was to elementary school age children with learning handicaps. Awareness of the value of music and dance to children challenged by mathematics, reading and some other subject matter, was nil. I taught in Wells, two days per week, one day in Burlington, one day in the Governor Allen Estate in Norwood, Massachusetts, and three days in Hyde Park, teaching dance, music and drum corps. During these years I taught, directed, and produced many shows and recitals with anywhere from six to

over a hundred of my students performing in them. We marched in parades in South Boston, Charlestown, Hyde Park, Burlington and many other places in the New England area, as well as participation in Drum and Bugle Corps competitions, the ceremonies of opening of, dedication or re-dedication of streets, parks and buildings in Boston and surrounding cities and town. Jimmy and I danced for the Boston Parks Department, both before and after our marriage.

During the next twenty years of our life was a busy blur of activity, raising children (we had many) while pursuing the many wonderful opportunities presented by life in the United States of America. We are so fortunate to be here!

To touch on some of the pursuits which I have been privileged to enjoy, I shall here offer a few. Many of these were occurring simultaneously:

- Dancing schools in Mattapan, Stoughton, and Easton Ma, helping and grooming my students to teach at the Neighborhood House in Jamaica Plain, MA (offering opportunities for low income families)
- Cub Scout Den Leader, Den Leader Coach, (Jimmy was Pack Cub Master, son of Al Manson was in that pack, his daughter was in my dance classes.)
- Cub Scout Leader for up to 23 boys each of 9 years at the hospital school in Canton, MA. I brought helpers from my dance school, students and/or parents, children from my church youth group or boys from other cub dens in our pack. Many of the boys at the school were severely handicapped, mostly physically, and needed one on one assistance.
- Dance councilor for girl scouts Mattapan, Burlington, Stoughton, and Easton, MA
- Music and Swimming Councilor for Boy Scouts, Stoughton, MA
- Rec-Therapist for the state of Massachusetts
- Trainer for Junior Miss (High school seniors compete for scholarship money)-sponsored by the local JC's – winners compete at a local, state and then national level.
- Choreographer for a town wide production of "God Spell"
- Organizer for a town wide choir group of boys.
- Paid youth director for a Universalist Church
- Organizer for a children's choir for boys and girls
- Sunday School teacher for three different churches
- Paid youth director for a Methodist Church
- Organizer, teacher and director of variety shows for many different churches of several different denominations, temples, senior citizens and other groups
- Tutor for students in need of help (I did this from grade 6 through grade 10 when I was in school in Wilmington
- Part of programming teams for severely handicapped children
- Participated with other students from Massachusetts College of Art in work to accomplish Handicap Parking Laws and Handicap Access to Building and Toilet Facilities. This also included the legislature to make available funding for people in need of making their homes wheelchair accessible.
- Participated in fund raising for Heart Fund, Arthritis, Muscular Dystrophy and other like worthy causes. These participations were often accomplished with the help of many of my students and often included parents of students as well

- Taught Physical Education to 450 (give or take a couple each year) students in Brockton, MA, schools every week for six years. This continued until we sold our home in Easton and moved into our summer cabin

In this park where we live now, we had for many years been an active part of the Association. In 1975, all the people of our association bought the park. In the five years prior to the purchase of the park, Jimmy had been the President of the Association. We had, with lots of friends here, been running all of the activities for the adults and for many more years than that, all of the children's programs.

When we moved up to New Hampshire, we intended to be retired and would be doing quite a bit of traveling. After a couple of years, we had had enough of that. Jimmy bought a security business and I decided to go back to teaching part time.

I was, for three years, director of the summer day camp for the town of Sanbornton. I applied for a part time position as a sub for the "Before and After School Program" in my home town of Gilford. I wanted just one or two days a week or one or two days a month. It turned out that I was working every day, every week and they were pressing for me to become the director of the program. Soon they asked to put my name on as director, "just for now". That was nine years ago. I guess this is still "just for now". The children are five to twelve years old. I love the program and shall probably stay with it for at least another ten or fifteen years. I also work as a respite person for "Headstart" a couple of days each week while my school children are at their schools. The powers that be would like it to be more but this time I am standing firm. I have the agreement with both jobs that when I want time off, I get it, with no questions asked. They have honored that and I do get to travel, but just a bit. I like it to be a dependably constant time for "my" children. I get to have them for five and six years running. I love my life.

A most important part of my life has been the raising of my many children. In August of 1958, my oldest son and only biological child was born to Jimmy and me. What a blessing children are. They change your whole outlook on life.

In February, 1958, one of my dearest friends died unexpectedly. A few days before, as I was telling her about my joy of expecting a child in the coming summer, she told me I would be a wonderful mother and if anything ever happened to her she hoped I would raise her eleven year old daughter. Janet always brought me great joy. She, and my new baby, Bruce, were very close. She was a stewardess with American Airlines for 18 years and a great love and inspiration in all of our lives.

At age thirty-eight, she was diagnosed with a brain tumor. Her greatest wish at that time was to see her nearly five year old son, William, grow to be a man. Her life expectancy at that time was tops two years. On May 29, 2001, she gave up her long courageous struggle, just two days after Will graduated from Cornell College in Ithaca, New York. She was blessed with the most wonderfully dedicated and compassionate husband and son any woman could ever wish for. Janet was a joy to all who knew her. Her husband, Frank, will forever be a hero to me and all of us who loved Janet. We shall love him for eternity.

In September, 1964, Peter, nearly six years old, and Debora, just barely four, came to live with us. In the spring of 1966, they became a real part of our family with their adoption. Debby has an eighteen year old son, Shawn, and a one year old daughter, Leighanne.

Our son, Bruce, lives just about one mile from us here in Gilford. Bruce and his wife, Jennifer, have three children. Brianne is in college in Utica, N. Y. Tyson is seventeen and a senior at Gilford High School and Brittani, an eighth grader in Gilford Middle High.

We are all healthy and looking forward to many more happy years to go.

Joe Gilligan
144 Chestnut Street
Wilmington, MA 01887
JOG144@attbi.com

Bachelor's degree for Saint Anselm College in 1951
Married, after a whirlwind romance of seven years, (perhaps it wasn't as whirlwind as I thought) to the former Patricia Tighe in 1955.
Master's degree from Boston University in 1959
Retired after forty-four unremarkable years as an employee of the Wilmington Public School system in 1998.

In the meantime…

Delivered propane gas (and generally succeeded to wrestling those tanks to the ground), attempted to teach ten young ladies the game of tennis (with limited success), painted schools in Winchester and in East Boston (not well but what the hell), painted two houses of former friends (neither of whom asked me to repeat the process), drove a big bus (thereby transporting captive audiences across state lines), assembled door and window frames (which are very likely an integral part of somebody's home even at this late date), gave a course on baseball fundamentals (some instruction went unheeded), went sailing on a big ship (at government expense), fathered six former children (now adults of course thus no longer children), delivered hundreds of newspapers (before you were awake), guarded the gates of our local rodent farm (after you went to bed), drove a taxi (for a now defunct company through no fault of mine), dug holes in the ground six feet by three in approved and appropriate sites (and actually found a body in the cemetery – imagine that!).

Of course, I did not do all of these things at the same time, but as you see, I kept pretty busy.

I am no longer pretty busy because I am doing what I always promised myself (and others who inquired as to my intentions) to do when retired which is to not be pretty busy.

John Good
62 Farnham Street
North Andover, MA 01845

I enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in June, 1948 and in appreciation, in August, 1950, they provided me with an all expenses paid trip to Korea. I received my discharge in May 1952.

After four years of school, I married Carol in September, 1956. I went to work for Liberty Mutual Insurance Company in November, 1956. In March, 1962, I was transferred to New Castle, Pennsylvania, and lived there for five years. My three daughters were born in Pennsylvania. Subsequently, I was transferred to Atlanta, Georgia, where my two sons were born. We moved back to Massachusetts in 1966 and settled in North Andover.

I retired from Liberty Mutual in 1992 and joined the National Sales Department in the Haverhill Country Club and have been attempting to improve my golf game ever since.

Our family has grown with the addition of nine grandchildren. Carol and I are still in the big house in North Andover with our 40 year old retarded son, Steve, but are leaning towards downsizing soon.

Dick Goss
11226 Versailles Lane
Port Richey, Florida 34668

What ever happened to Dick Goss? Well…From 1948 Graduation to the present.

Employments:

- Aberjona Division of General Food Corp. in Woburn for about three years
- Boston Stove Foundry in Reading – wiring electric stoves for about five years.
- Mystic Transformers of Winchester and Wilmington as Quality Control Manager for ten years.
- General Radio Company of Concord and Bolton as a Transformer Technician for twenty years.
- Retired from General Radio in 1985.

Marriages:

First marriage was for eight years and wife passed away after open heart surgery. This marriage produced two daughters, both now living in the Virginia and Maryland areas. They are married with children.

Second marriage has been forty-four years and going strong. This marriage has produced three children…a son and twin daughters. My son is living in Massachusetts and is married with one son. One daughter lives in Florida with her children. The other lives in Massachusetts and is married with no children.

So… I have five children, ten grandchildren and five and one-half great-grandchildren. Who would have thought it!

Residences:

- Lake Street, Wilmington, for a short time… then Burlington Avenue for a short time.
- South Tewksbury, Arkansas Road for about five years
- Built a home on Forest Street, Wilmington, near Burlington and stayed there about three years.
- Built another home in North Billerica and stayed there for about twenty years until I retired.
- Then built a home in Hudson Florida, and stayed ten years.
- Health (as in "old age") caught up to us so we sold and moved into a condo in Port Richey, Florida

Sorry, I couldn't elaborate more than this, of course, volumes could be written about, but time is of the essence.

Regards to all

Eileen Hitchcock Thebeau
6 Suncrest Avenue
Wilmington, MA 01887

I was blessed with a close-knit family, and a strong, dedicated mother who was always there for the six of us. I guess that is the reason I could never leave Wilmington and live elsewhere. I am too family oriented for that. I keep myself busy helping my older siblings, my kids, and grandkids. My life revolves around my family circle.

I married Dick Thebeau in 1949. He was a Clinical Engineer at the Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston. We have three children, Linda, Lisa and John, two granddaughters, Jillian and Paige, and one grandson, Joseph. We built our home on Suncrest Avenue in Wilmington, and I have lived there ever since. In 1971, we bought our summer home in Ellsworth, Maine, on the waterfront of Graham Lake. During my stay in Maine, I spent many happy hours with my family and also took time out to do charity work helping the elderly in nearby nursing homes.

I worked winters on the west coast of Florida and later changed our vacations over to the east coast in Pompano Beach for five years. Emily Clements lived practically next door and had played tennis at my complex. We shopped at the same stores. I walked by her building each day and yet we never met each other during that whole time. I now vacation in Fort Lauderdale. I usually telephone Emily to have lunch with me and this last winter, Peggy Denton was visiting, and the three of us enjoyed lunch together with lots of laughs, reminiscing about our good old days in Wilmington.

Growing up on West Street had a profound effect on my life. John Elia's family were not only outstanding business people in town, but also good Samaritans as well, who genuinely cared and looked after their neighbors. They were like having a "second" family and were always there when you needed them most. The West Street Gang, Norm and Evelyn Arbo, John Good, John Elia, Charlotte and Barbara Moore, the Balcolms, were not only notable people, but wonderful friends to share my youth with as well. Our big outing in those days was in either going to the movies or George's restaurant to "hang out" at the center.

School friends I have stayed in touch with and had a great time socializing with during my early married years were, Virginia Day, Marge Johnston, Peggy Denton and Emily Clements. We also had many friends from Reading, who were Virginia Day's neighbors. Those were carefree, happy times when our children were small.

I feel closely bonded to Wilmington, having lived here all my life. Everything I value most is here, my children, grandchildren, my family, great friends and classmates. What more could I want? I have seen many changes through the years, but the one thing that could never change is my love for Wilmington

John Hourihan
55 Lake Street
Tewksbury, MA 01876
SJAJLH@comcast.net

To anyone living in the Silver Lake district of Wilmington, in the forties, Tattersall's Variety Store was a prominent landmark. Students gathered inside on cold winter days to keep warm while waiting for the school bus to arrive. Locals dashed in and out all day, buying anything from newspapers to ice cream. Since my parents owned the store, I was enlisted to work there. Hand packing ice cream in those days was hard work and a job I really disliked. But what I wouldn't give today to have some of that good old-fashioned ice cream they don't make anymore.

After graduating from High School, I worked full time for my parents at the store until 1950. From there I enlisted for four years in the United States Air Force during the Korean War. My first assignment was at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas. From Texas, I went on to Tyndall Air Force Base in Panama City, Florida, where I met up with former classmates, Charlie Sullivan and Irving Buck. I was later transferred to Lowery Air Force Base in Denver, Colorado, to attend school.

After finishing school, I was assigned just about as far north as I could go in the Aleutian Island chain – to Shemichi Air Force Base on Shemya Island for one year. Sounds like a real frigid place to be, but actually the temperature hovered around thirty degrees most of the time. Shemya Island was situated between the Bering Sea on one side and the Pacific on the other. We could shake hands with the international date line. There were only about 125 people on the whole island and the only others that we could shake hands with were sea lions and an occasional polar bear. I was assigned to the supply and materials division. It was a long way off for a kid from Wilmington to be and certainly was an unusual experience.

My next assignment took me way back to the northeastern United States again, to Andrews Air Force Base, Washington, D. C. and I was happy about that. It turned out to be my lucky break in more ways than one. I met my wife, Sally Anderson, from Michigan there. She was with the Air Force, assigned to the Weather Service. We wanted to marry sooner than we did, but waited until May, 1955, when we both got out of the service, before marrying.

We moved, as newlyweds, to our present home on Lake Street in Tewksbury. Our house edges close to the Wilmington/Tewksbury town line, so you see I just barely left my hometown of Wilmington. Life has been good, perhaps hectic at times, for a father competing with five daughters racing around the house. I was outnumbered by females and there was plenty of competition for the bathroom. Things have certainly quieted down since they have married. We are the proud grandparents of six grandchildren.

I worked in the electronics field for forty-one years for companies in Lowell, and Waltham, before retiring. Sally and I enjoy our retirement years with our visiting married daughters and grandchildren. We both spend time as members of veteran's organizations and also do charity work. We are members of the Elks Club.

I still live near Silver Lake. All the memories of my youth are here, the fun I used to have swimming and ice skating. Sure, the landscape has changed, but my memories haven't. It is nice to live near "home."

Liz Huntley White
2 Cedar Street
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After graduating form Wilmington High School, I enrolled in Boston University, College of Arts. I received a Batchelor's degree with a major in Psychology and a minor in Sociology. I worked for a couple of years for an insurance company. Rather than accepting a promotion to head a department, I left, deciding to go back to college for a Master's degree in education. I consulted with our local superintendent about what courses I should take to become a teacher. What a surprise I got when, before I could register for classes, he called and offered me a job beginning in one week. It turned out to be very interesting. The class was housed in the old high school, in what was once a laboratory. The class consisted of fourth and fifth grade students, with a variety of abilities, slow learners to very brilliant and some with problems. The room had eighth grade books, everything had to be written on the blackboard as there was a shortage of paper. It was quite a learning experience and challenge! That year was as good an education as I could get. We did well. We all got promoted that year, even the teacher. Next year and thereafter I taught the fifth grade. Some of the fourth graders moved right along with me but nobody seemed to mind this.

However, that experience made me want a good vacation. And it was a beaut! A friend from my insurance days quit her job and with my two months respite, we made out our own itinerary and plans and were off to see part of the world. We were on our own, sailing the ocean in the original Queen Elizabeth. Sailing with us was Mikhailovich Molotov, prominent Russian statesman and premier. We could look down upon him from the upper deck as he took his daily walk. Always with him were his bodyguards and food tasters. We had a great many experiences for a couple of "country bumpkins". Coming home we flew across the ocean in a constellation propeller plane that droned on and on for twelve hours. Jets were not used commercially yet. What an improvement! I sure was glad to land but I bet the fellow sitting next to me was happier. He "white knuckled" it all the way and for some reason used a jar of Vicks on his nose. Whew.

It was back to work again. Evenings, afternoons and summertime was studying until I got a Master's degree in Elementary Education. I continued teaching for eight years until starting our family. It was a very rewarding job which I enjoyed as well as all the children.

John and I married after an eight-year courtship. In the interim, we sowed our not so "wild oats" and built our own house in Wilmington. We had the help of many relatives and friends. So we're still rooted in the old town where we remained although we also had a retirement home in Florida. Deciding we would miss New England, family and friends, we sold this. And here we suffer through snow, ice, and freezing weather.

The opportunity came later to go back to Austria, Germany and Switzerland for a month. This time it was with a cousin. We had found relatives and wanted to visit them. We hired a car and drove all over. Only once did my one year of German (so long ago) give us trouble.... when we followed a sign that led for miles before ending at a special hospital instead of where we

intended to go. We stayed with relatives who ran a pensione in the Black Forest of Germany. Here we saw where our grandmother lived, went to church and played until she came to America at thirteen with her young sister. We stayed with our relatives in their family home which housed three families. Each family had to throw a party for us. No one had ever gone back to the "old country" so we were treated like royalty. We had barbeques, picnics, outings, etc. We were shown where our grandfather lived and was a shepherd in the summertime. Austria is very pleasant with all its music, parks, concerts and flowers. We wanted to take our hosts to a special concert so we got tickets to one performed on a floating stage, a disappointment to me that the play being performed that night was "West Side Story" – an American story.

After marriage and one child, I did some subbing in the schools but did not care to continue with it. Then I discovered volunteerism and have done a number of different things, trying to contribute to the community. Charlotte and I were very involved with the Community Schools for several years until it was turned over to the town. I spend some time with Family Counseling. For twenty-two years, since its inception, I have been appointed to the local Arts Council, being chairman for six years and am still an active member. I am a member of the one hundred year old Women' Club dedicated to helping local needs. I have been president of this four times. Do you remember the Carter Lectures held at the Grange Hall? Well, meet Madame Chairman of that committee. All of this from the girl voted the quietest girl in the senior class.

Now I am enjoying having our son, his wife and a year and a half year old daughter living close by. Any leisure time is spent doing crafts, reading, a bit of traveling, doing jigsaw puzzles and watching figure skating on television. I am still trying to learn – now how to use the computer. Perhaps my favorite thing has been the building of a twenty-one room doll house with seventeen rooms done and four to go! These are separate rooms in a cabinet.

It has been great to see those who attend our class reunions. I hope they continue.

Verda Johnson Murray
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After graduating from high School, most of my friends headed for the John Hancock Insurance Company. Honestly, it seemed like the whole city of Boston consisted of one huge insurance company. I wanted something different and was fortunate enough to find an office job with the Canada Steamship Lines, even though I was fresh out of high school. Later, I decided to change jobs, and wouldn't you know it, it was with an insurance company. No, it was not the John Hancock Company, but Factory Mutual Insurance. Roaming through the streets of Boston, I became familiar with the city and adjusted very well to my new life.

All of this was going to take a drastic turn when I met the man who would become my future husband. Roy Murray (who is Kay Hardy's brother) became the center of my life and we were married in 1950. We lived in Massachusetts for one year and then decided we wanted to live in a more rural community. We both loved the countryside and chose New Hampshire as our future home. It doesn't seem possible that Roy and I have been married 53 years already. Where did the time go?

Roy is a retired independent contractor who did carpentry. We are proud of our beautiful daughter and two handsome sons, they truly light up our lives and have blessed us with three grandchildren and one great grandchild. How lucky can we be? Our son, Edmund, works for Maine's largest newspaper, *The Union Leader.* Daughter, Linda, is employed by the Citizen's Bank. Son, David, works for Lomas Chemical Company. Fortunately for us, all our children live within a twenty minute ride our home and we are able to be together often. Watching and playing with our grandchildren are some of life's greatest pleasures. They are so much fun to be with and really keep us hopping.

We have taken many vacations in one of our favorite places, Maine. Nova Scotia is the real favorite of ours. It is so peaceful and quaint there, a pleasant place to be. Gardening in my yard is a favorite hobby of mine. I derive much pleasure from watching my flowers grow into something truly beautiful.

My good friend and former classmate, Dottie Smith and I have remained close friends. We write to each other often. Dottie has relatives living in New Hampshire, and when she visits them, she always stops over to see me. The only other contact I've had with my classmates is with Gerry Fitch dropping by and very excitedly telling me all about the class reunion she had attended. I must admit, though, that occasionally I wonder about different classmates and what has become of them. Guess now I will find out when I read this book of ours.

Al Manson
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As you all know, 1947 was not a good year for job hunting. I gave myself six months to become employed, and if unsuccessful, I planned on enlisting in the service. Instead, I enrolled in the Stenotype Institute hoping to become a court reporter. I attended days and worked in Charley William's Box Factory evenings. When Charley closed his plant, I attended classes evenings and found a job working in a paper converting company as a secretary/salesperson trainee. As the pay was pretty low, I soon quit school, knowing I would never achieve the speed needed to be a success in the court room. To supplement my income, I sold Stanley Home Products. In 1949, my future wife was hired by the company as the President's secretary. There was a rule that employees couldn't date, but we managed and everyone was pleasantly shocked when in June, 1951, we announced our engagement.

In December, 1950, I enlisted in the U.S. Air Force, reporting for duty in January, 1951. I spent two weeks in Texas, two years in upstate New York and two years in New York City. After getting married in September, 1951, we lived in Auburn, N.Y. Carol went to work in finance at the base. In April 1953, I was transferred to New York City and we lived on Long Island. Carol went to work as a secretary in the city.

After discharge in December, 1954, we stayed in New York for a while. I was once again selling paper. I am probably the only person you know who walked every street in Manhattan. Missing New England, we moved back to Arlington, Mass. Eventually, I became the cost accountant of the company and then temporarily the plant superintendent. Production went up so much, I was offered the position permanently but refused and took a job with another paper company. After a year, this company sold out to RustCraft Greetings Cards. I went there as Product Manager of their party goods line. I volunteered my department to be the pilot unit for computerizing the company. In doing so, I became enthralled with this new machine. It offered a mental challenge and also career security. I became a systems analyst. From there, I went to work for American Mutual Insurance Companies. The next step was Systems and Programming Manager for Balfour, "jewelry's finest craftsmen." Soon after, I joined Honeywell's Education Department which eventually became Bull Information Systems. I retired from there in 1989. In 1990, I helped found Sonleas, Inc. where I was President and CEO. We disbanded in 1995.

While at RustCraft, I got my Bachelors degree in Business Management from Northeastern University. While with Honeywell, I got my Masters in Business Education from Boston University. I have been teaching computer courses at Northeastern evenings for 38 years. I have also taught at Fisher, LaSalle, Bridgewater State, UMass, and Massasoit.

After living in Stoughton for seven years, we designed and had built our present house.In 1966, Carol got the first of her two Master's Degrees and became a teacher at Walpole High. We have two children, Cheryl, in Chicago. She shocked many people by taking and passing three actuarial examinations in one day. She has since gone to law school and passed the bar. Son,

Steven (a fellow Mensan), and his wife, Ann, have two children, Gregg, 8, and Beth 5. Steve is President and CEO of a software company. They live in Andover.

Politically, I was a town meeting member in both Arlington and Stoughton and on the Stoughton Finance Committee. I also umpired Little League and managed a Babe Ruth baseball team.

For church activities, I have taught Sunday school, was the Sunday School superintendent, head of the Board of Trustees, Auditor and Moderator.

My hobbies or interests include chess. I was a rated player, playing in the Metropolitan league and entering local and national tournaments. At one time, I was into body building. I played softball until I became an avid tennis player. I have had to give this up because of an ailing shoulder. I am now quite active in Mensa as a proctor using some of my USAF experience. A lot of time is taken up with my interest in magic. I am a member of the Society of American Magicians, the International Brotherhood of Magicians, and the Psychics Entertainers Association. I have been President of the local groups of both SAM and IBM and co-chaired several magic shows which featured international talent. Recently, I co-produced and acted in "An Evening with Lizzie" which is a program put on at the Lizzie Borden House. Besides teaching, I spend some time as a consultant solving computer problems.

Although I do get to Wilmington often as my sister still lives there, I have not run into any of my former classmates.

Muriel Martin Tribble
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After college and graduate school in education, Harold Tribble and I were married on June 28, 1952. He had just graduated from Andover-Newton with his Master's in theology. Following a year in Amherst, where he was assistant chaplain at Andover College and I taught fourth grade in North Amherst, we moved to North Carolina. Harry did more graduate work and served Southern Baptist churches near Raleigh and further east. I taught sixth grade in Durham and then our first two children, Sara and David were born.

In 1960 we moved to a U.C.C. (Congregational) church in Southern Virginia, where our daughter, Hannah, was born. By 1965, we had the choice of going to U.C.C. church in Birmingham, Alabama, or one on Long Island, New York. We knew in our hearts that we wanted to be back "up north". And that's where we have been for 37 years.

In 1966, I went back to teaching. I studied for a Master's in Library Science and then organized the first library-media center in the same school where I worked until retiring in 1993. I was an officer in the teacher's union and then served as vice-president and president of the Wantagh Retired Teachers until last August.

We didn't travel much in the early years, except to Wilmington. Then in 1970 Harry's father gave the whole family a trip to Europe. Since then we've managed some travel in six continents as well as Tahiti and New Zealand. When Hannah and her husband moved to Montana and then Colorado nearly ten years ago we finally visited more of the western part of our own country.

Last may we took a cruise and land-tour of Alaska with Sara and her family to celebrate our 50th wedding anniversary at a time when they could travel. It was fun to do something we had meant to do for years, especially with our (graduate student) granddaughter and (college student) grandson. They provided a whole new perspective.

All in all, it has been a very good fifty-five years graduation from WHS, but Wilmington is still "home."

Charlotte Moore Stewart
35 Adams Street
Wilmington, MA 01887

I retired June, 2002, from a 17 year career as a geriatric social worker. My life, as I look back, has been busy. After having four sons it was a revelation when I began shopping with any of four older granddaughters. Elizabeth, at 8, setting the record, trying on over twenty bathing suits before her mother, out of pure desperation, made the final choice.

At 18, I didn't know I was a "joiner" but I am. My interests continued changing through the years, i.e. Sunday School teacher, cub scout den mother, PTA member, L.W.U. where I learned to do my homework, chairperson of Wilmington Recreation Commission, Wilmington Family Counseling Board member, Board member of the group which began Wilmington community schools. I continued to be active in the L.W.U.s, Friends of the Library, the Golden Club. Barbara Bertwell Buck and I co-chair a garden therapy program at Wilmington's two nursing homes in one of which my mother and aunt lived out their lives.

As have many of you, I've traveled (not as extensively as Emily who has been places I never knew were on the map). My favorite being the Highlands and Isle of Skye of Scotland where I visited the tiny island of Rassay which my great great grandfather wisely left.

I also go to PEI, Canada, at least once each summer with friends, family, my sister Barbara and her husband, Paul Carpenter. You'll find us at the Annandale School House which we purchased forty plus years ago. My mother and father would be so pleased if they could know how much their grandchildren and great grandchildren enjoy the "Island."

When I was 51, I joined a friend in taking courses at a community college. One thing led to another and I received an Associates Degree in 1981, a Batchelor of Arts Degree, Magna Cum Laude from the University of Lowell in 1983, and a Masters in Social Work in 1985 from Simms School of Social Work. The first job I was offered was working with older people. This began my career as a geriatric social worker. I loved my job at Medford's Senior Center, working with seniors in my office and in their homes. In retirement I continue to be busy with friends, my various committees, my family (watching the grandchildren play soccer, baseball, band concerts etc) gardening (shovel and wheel barrel), walking, reading. My greatest joy is helping with my youngest grandchildren, twins Cameron and Skye, now three years old. They have brought joy to our lives.

I'd like to share with you some of the memories I ended my senior newspaper column with:

Party lines
Rag Curls
Curtain stretchers
Knickers
May Day on the Common
Ration Books
Ink Wells
Skates to grow into

Catherine Murray Hardy
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I can't believe it has been so long since we graduated from good old Wilmington High School! I didn't write any Best Sellers and didn't produce an Oscar winning movie, but I've had a great life.

Well, in 1950, Joe Hardy and I got married while he was in the Coast Guard and then after he got out of the service we had a son, Steven, who is a crane operator for a sign company in Florida. Steven has a son, Sean, who is married and has two little girls. In 1954, we had a daughter named Susan, who is a supervisor for a mortgage company. She and her husband, Dana, (who has been with General Motors for 20 Years) have a daughter, Jennifer, who is a producer for ABC Television.

When Joe got out of the Coast Guard he became a fireman for the Fire Department in Wilmington. He was a fireman for about five or six years when he decided he wanted to go to Iowa to college to become a chiropractor. We packed our belongings and off we went to Davenport, Iowa. This was a six year course but with no vacation Joe did it in four years, while I worked three jobs to help him become a chiropractor. He was a really good one and I think he treated everyone on the fire and police departments in Wilmington when we came back.

I, on the other hand, have been an administrative secretary since I left the telephone office. I worked with Ann (Palmer) Stewart until our family moved to Iowa.

In 1965, we had a son, Bryce. After he graduated from high school, he went to Wentworth Institute in Boston, for carpentry. I sent him to Wentworth because I wanted him to become interested in computers, believing that was the coming thing, but he didn't want anything to do with computers. He was more interested in carpentry, so that's what he studied. He has his own building business. He has two girls. We also have a daughter, Brenda, who is an Esthetician. She is married to Steven (who is with IB). They have two sons.

About seven years ago, Joe got very sick with Mad Cows disease (The doctor said he may have gotten that when he had a triple aorta bypass in 1985.) and after that he got dementia. It was very hard for him, as well as all the family, because sometimes he didn't know any of us. (One night were in bed and he said, "Who is in the bed beside me?" and I told him it was Michelle Pfeiffer and to go to sleep.) Joe always liked a good laugh.

Joe passed away in April, 2000. We all miss him very much and, in fact, sometimes during each day, we think of something he would have said and we laugh. He was a wonderful husband and loving father. After Joe died, I sold my home and now live with my daughter Susan and her husband Dana. I have a very good relationship with them. It has been 18 years since Joe and I moved to Tarpon Springs with Susan and Dana. Eventually all the family moved to Tarpon Springs.

Well, I was all set to go to the 55th class reunion last October and, in fact, flew to New Hampshire to stay with my grandson and family, but during the night I had a stroke and spent six days in the St Joseph Hospital in Nashua. I'm fine now with no side effects. I went back to work in November but then I retired in December. I have gone to the gym for the past three years. Now I'm able to go every day when I feel like going instead of 5:30 in the morning. I also go driving golf balls every so often.

How ironic, this March 15th I will be attending the Wilmington reunion in Tarpon Springs at Howard Park, which is right around the corner from where we live. I'm really looking forward to seeing everyone there.

Every year, I try to return to Massachusetts. When I do, I usually stay with my nephew and his family in Harwich. I do try to drive through Wilmington to remember my old stomping grounds.

Nancy Noble Cook
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Orleans, MA 02653

Graduating from WHS was a milestone in my life, and a big event following the many years of the Depression we all had survived. I still held onto my dream to be a teacher like my favorite teacher at the Silver Lake School, Miss Mildred Rogers. Affordable education for me was only possible at Lowell State Teachers College, which I commuted to daily by bus. The four years passed quickly and I have wonderful memories of my student-teaching days at the Cross Street School in Lowell. Very close friendships still exist with five members of the Class of 1951, who continue to gather for their annual reunion on the Cape.

Superintendents of many Massachusetts school systems came to LSTC early in February, to recruit seniors for teaching positions in their schools. Many of us signed contracts during those interviews, and I was so pleased to be selected to teach a third grade at the Franklin School in Wakefield.. and, at the second-highest starting salary offered graduating seniors -- $2592! I taught in Wakefield for three years and commuted to Boston University nights and in the summer to complete graduate work in the field of Remedial Reading. This directed me to the position of Remedial Reading teacher at the new Wildwood School in Wilmington, where I taught for two years.

In June of 1956, wedding bells chimed at the Congregational Church for me and my dear Bill. I moved to Southbridge, MA, where Bill had been living three months before our wedding. He was employed by Mass Electric Company in Worcester as an electrical engineer. I had accepted a position as Remedial Reading teacher in the elementary schools of Charlton, Sturbridge, and Holland. After a few years, Sturbridge urged me to become Reading Supervisor at Burgess Elementary School. During these years in Sturbridge, I was active in Delta Kappa Gamma, an International Society of Women Educators and became President of Alpha Alpha Chapter in the Worcester area. Thirty wonderful years were enjoyed in the southern Worcester County area. I retired in 1986, after 35 years in education!

Bill retired in 1987, but it took us two years to move permanently to Orleans on Cape Cod, where we had built our retirement home in 1983. Since we had no children, our life has been filled with church work, community volunteering, and travel. We have toured by plane and bus in Hawaii, Sweden, England, Scotland and Wales. When our Orleans Church celebrated the 350th year of its founding, we observed this special time by tracing the footsteps of our Pilgrim Fathers in England and Holland. However, **cruising** has been our favorite mode of travel: Alaska's Inside Passage, Coast of Norway, Baltic Sea, Panama Canal, Erie Canal, Bermuda, and Hawaii's four major islands. High on our travel lists and yet to come, if time doesn't run out we hope, will be the canals and rivers between Vienna and Amsterdam, the Intra-Coastal Waterway from Rhode Island to Florida, the Great Lakes and the Mediterranean.

My church work, through the years, has involved committees, choirs, and women's groups. My only "claim to fame" was being appointed the first woman Moderator in the 180 year history of our Southbridge Congregational Church. My volunteer work has involved the community and serving on an Advisory Board for retired teachers: the shop in the community provides free

clothing, household items, and food for low-income families; the Advisory Board makes financial grants for emergencies in the lives of retired teachers on small pensions.

Many friendships, which began in Wilmington, have continued to bring happiness to my life through the years. Gunver (Dahlin) Davis and I are very close friends to this day. Julia (Webber) Fielding kept in touch until her death, Bobbie (Ware) London and I have enjoyed working and socializing in our Church's women's group here. Jean (Melzar) Shepard, Libby's sister, visits us when she and her husband make their annual visit to the Cape. The post office helps to bring Muriel (Martin) Tribble and Madeline (Emery) Syvertson close when their cards and notes arrive in the mail. An anonymous writer has penned my feelings perfectly: "Friendship is the melody and fragrance of life."

Class of '47 Best Wishes!

Ann Palmer Stewart
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For what it's worth, I was in the process of renewing my Real Estate Broker's license when your letter arrived requesting a short autobiography. The fact that I am projecting a future use of my license at the age of 73 must tell you that I am still active, healthy, very fortunate (or nuts) and looking ahead to the golden years that everyone talks about.

Regarding the last 55 years, I married Ervyl (Turk) Stewart in August 1949. Many of you know him as the local Civil Engineer who surveyed and laid-out development designs around town. We are still together and are the proud parents of five: Daniel (Wilmington Fire Chief), Dorothy (RN), Douglas (Civil Engineer), Jimmy (Wilmington Town Moderator) and Diane (multi-talented). Our 6 grandchildren reside in Wilmington and are active in the community, school and sports. When Dianne (our youngest) graduated from Mt Ida College in 1991, I was the only family member without a degree. I met the challenge and enrolled at UMass as a part-time evening student. This was a period when I was helping Ervyl in his business, managing some real estate and trying to play a little golf. I was diagnosed with breast cancer in 1994. (It was early-onset and has been cured.) In 1995 I was awarded an Associate of Science in Criminal Justice and a Paralegal Certificate in 1996. I am a member of the 2000 graduating class of UMass Lowell with a Bachelor of Science (magna cum laude) in Criminal Justice. Don't let anyone tell you that you're too old to learn!

We sold our Wilmington house in 1998 and moved to our beach house on Cape Cod. Around the same time we bought a house in Florida and spend the winter months there working on our golf game. Life has been good and we are old enough and wise enough to know it!

Looking forward to reading similar reports from the class of '47 and (with a little luck) seeing you again at our 60th in 2007!

Gerry Porter Doane
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I really wanted to be Sonja Heine, what kid (girl) living across the street from a cranberry bog, five acres of glistening ice, wouldn't want to be Sonja? But the Ice Follies never called, so I made the best of it.

I worked for a while after graduation, then started at Boston University, transferred to Tufts to finish with a degree in Occupational Therapy (OT) and Education. I enjoyed working in OT in a psychiatric setting after college. Jack & I married in 1955, moved to New York and then Dallas where I also worked in psychiatry. We moved back to Massachusetts and started a family, Patricia (43), John (39) and Eileen (35). Great kids (like yours!) who have provided us with wonderful grandchildren (like yours!), Michaela (10), Kacie (4) and John William (9 months).

I restarted my OT career when the children were older, practicing home care with the local Visiting Nurse Association in Ipswich. I returned to the hospital setting at the Salem Hospital and then, full time, at the New England Rehabilitation Hospital in Woburn. It was while I was there that I was offered a teaching position in a two year OT Assistant Program at North Shore Community College in Beverly, thus beginning a new career which lasted for 16 years. I got my master degree in education in my 50s and ended that career in New Hampshire where I taught in a similar program. I loved teaching, had wonderful students and still keep in touch.

Jack and I had always thought that we would retire to NH, and so we did (our daughters and granddaughters are in NH and son, John, and family are in Colorado). We live on the "quiet" side of NH, nice area, nice people.

I have been retired since 1996. Do I enjoy retirement? You bet! Time in the garden, meeting with friends and wondering how I ever had time to work! (Like you!) Travel is wonderful, I've been through the Panama Canal (cruising is wonderful), Europe, Bermuda, Canada, Bahamas, trips south and west by car (car trips are wonderful), just enjoying being on the go. We belong to AVA, American Volksport Association, a wonderful pleasure walking club which sponsors 10K walks throughout the country and, really, the world. Pleasure walks, not forced marches, the best way to see the country. I've done 10Ks in 11 of the states and am going for 50... I should live so long!

Jack enjoys golfing. I may play occasionally but only carry 3 clubs, a tee and a ball (I really like the walk). Took up downhill skiing at 63, cross country skiing on occasion, didn't do either this year. The downhill was on the baby slopes, so don't be impressed, those skis have since been retired. We usually get down to Florida to see sister Eileen and Monty (Dick Montgomery) in the winter but passed this year, about the coldest & snowiest winter in NH history! Smart, eh?

Being productive is important to me. I hold positions in the NH OT Association, the NH Weavers Guild, the NH Federation of State Garden Clubs and our local Garden Club. My car drives to Concord on automatic pilot! Very meaningful is my role as an Eucharistic minister, bringing communion to several home bound parishioners.

Our 55th reunion was wonderful, simply because we had a chance to share our lives, to fill the gaps and to get to know one another, again. I look forward to reading your history and seeing you at the next reunion. Stay well and take pleasure in knowing that you made a mark in others' lives.

Alice Rooney Sullivan
20 Jones Avenue
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I married in 1949. I had 10 children, 5 boys and 5 girls, now ranging from 52 to 36. My children have done quite well and blessed me with 31 grandchildren. They range from 29 to 2 years. This year, I have 7 grandchildren in college and 3 graduating from High School.

My hobbies have included knitting, ceramics, making all kinds of cakes: baby showers, christenings, birthdays, First Communion, confirmation and graduation (high school and college). I have become quite an expert at this and with my size family, it is a full time job.

I spent seven years as a teacher's aide at the Glen Road School and two years at the North Intermediate. I took courses at Wheelock College in Boston and at the University of New Hampshire for early child development and became the social worker for the Head Start program in Wilmington.

My most rewarding hobby is playing the piano at the nursing homes in Wilmington and the Pines in Tewksbury. The residents love singing all those old songs and bringing pleasure to them is very rewarding. I also go to A.I.M. (Access Is Mandatory), a social for handicapped people. We meet on Tuesday at the Knights of Columbus in Wilmington, serve lunch and have Bingo cards, games and sometimes a sing-a-long.

My husband died on January 9th, this year. It has been a big adjustment for me. We were married for 53 years.

Carolyn Smalley Ryan
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Gee, I could write a whole book on my life. But here goes. I'll try to condense it. You might not want to hear about all the things that happened to me since I left high school. First off, I got a job with the telephone company as an operator in Medford, then transferred to Reading. (It was nearer home.) I worked there for about four years until I met and married my husband, James Ryan, Jr., from Tewksbury. We moved in with Jim's aunt and uncle (he was a councilman in Lowell) for six months. From there we rented a place of our own in Wilmington, and then moved to Billerica.

Six years after we married, we managed to find a "little shack by the railroad track" in south Tewksbury by the Wilmington line, something we could afford. With nothing down and the right price, which was dirt cheap, we bought it. It was a summer camp really, not winterized. We moved out and in with my mother when winter came. With lots of "elbow grease," our little shack was finally winterized and we moved in and lived there for fourteen years. Three of our children were born there. Jim and I had six boys. We sold our "little shack by the railroad track" and bought Jim's father's house on Franklin street in Tewksbury, after Jim's mother died.

With six boys to care for (youngest was five months) I traveled with all my boys every day for one year to take care of Jim's mom when she was dying of leukemia, until she passed away.

Meanwhile Jim had found a good job working for the Shawmut Bank in Boston. We were happy about that since his pay increased from $75.00 to $150.00 per week and all medical benefits were included, which he didn't have before. Jim quickly rose through the ranks at Shawmut Bank (now Fleet Bank). He retired twenty-five years later as Vice- President of his division in the Telecommunications Department. He was sixty-eight years old.

During the time Jim was working for the Shawmut Bank, we managed to do a lot of traveling. We attended the International Communications of America convention each year, which was held at various locations all over the United States and the World. This gave Jim and me the opportunity to visit all parts of the world. Traveling to so many places was an unbelievable experience for us.

With six sons, our family grew fast. I now have sixteen grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

Our son, Rick, was diagnosed with bone cancer in his leg when was thirteen years old. Doctors told us he wouldn't live long, but he graduated from Northeastern University, was Vice-President of his division in Shawmut Bank, and married. When he finally died in 1985, he was 34 years old.

My husband, Jim, had contacted prostate cancer and passed away in 1995, on Memorial Day. Two years later, in 1997, my oldest son also passed away from pancreatic cancer. A year after

my husband's demise, I had both eyes operated on for cataracts and had an annual checkup. It was discovered I had breast cancer in 1996. I went through the whole gamut of chemo and radiation.

I sold my house in Tewksbury to my son, Rick, and moved to Reading for one year after my husband Jim, died. My son, Kevin, lives in Martha's vineyard and works for Stop & Shop. I visited with him and enjoyed it there. My sons got together and bought me a home on the island.

Penting up my emotions from life's traumas finally caught up with me. I couldn't seem to cry. I had built up a wall around myself and became a recluse and alcohol became a crutch I could lean on for support. All my life, I was never one to have more than an occasional drink every now and then. Alcohol was never a problem. I was down to 80 pounds, skin and bones, when my sons took over and placed me in a rehab facility for three weeks. When I left there I weighed 104 pounds. I managed to "slay the dragon" and am now back to where I was before. I will never again have to lean on the "crutch."

I moved from my home to an apartment in Havenside on the island. I am looking out the window now at the magnificent view of the harbor. I can see the ferry coming in from the mainland and hundreds of sailboats that are moored in rows. There are lots of boats to watch, coming and going, in a buzz of activity. What a glorious sight to behold.

I never dreamed I could live like this. Every day is appreciated for the gift that it really is. I love the new friends that I have made here. I am always busy doing volunteer work each day for the Anchor's Senior Center. . I don't have hobbies. I am too busy helping other people to do that.

In May, 200, I am very proud to say that I was presented with the "Senior Citizen of the Year" award for Martha's Vineyard (for all the volunteer work and help I have given others).

Unfortunately, I don't get back to Wilmington much anymore, but I do keep in touch with former classmate and dear friend, Eleanor Preston. Her second husband, John, also passed away. She now lives in Lauderdale by the Sea, Florida, in winter and New Hampshire in summer. She is listed in the phone book under Margaret E. which she says is really her first name. Eleanor's only daughter lives in Reading. Remember my other friends, Eleanor Cocoa, Emily Lyons, Helen Lane? Yes, we also keep in touch with each other.

My classmates and friends from Wilmington will always remain close to my heart. We had some wonderful times growing up in Wilmington, by Silver Lake. Great memories.

Dottie Smith Bradley
6413 Wilcox Court
Alexandria, VA 22310

What a great idea! I really enjoyed our 55th, as I did all the others.

After graduating from WHS in 1947, I went to work for the John Hancock Life Insurance Company in Boston. I worked there for almost three years.

After seeing a poster on my way to work one day that said, "Join the Navy and Go to Hawaii", I looked into joining. I did join the W.A.V E.S. (where I got my courage, I'll never know) in October of 1950.

I took my "boot" training in Great Lakes, Ill., after which I was stationed in Washington, D. C. I worked at the Pentagon Building as an office Yeoman. It was there that I met my husband, Bill, who was also in the Navy. It turns out he grew up in Haverhill, Mass.

Our friendship blossomed into love and we were married in the Chapel on February 2, 1952. We raised a family of seven children, 3 boys and 4 girls. They are all married now, and have families of their own. We have 16 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren. We've really enjoyed growing up with them.

Bill and I celebrated our 51st wedding anniversary on February 2, 2003.

P. S. No, I never did get to Hawaii!

Charles Sullivan
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Maurertown, VA 22644
CCSully@yahoo.com

I feel fortunate that I spent the first twenty-two years of my life, not only in Wilmington, but on the shores of Silver Lake, with friends like Gerard Forest, Tupper Riddle, Bobby Taylor, Ron Clements, Everett McQuaid, Ron Eaton, etc., with whom I played ice hockey, swam and caroused around town. We had a lot of fun in our youth. After high school, I worked at Riley's gas station beside Tattersall's store.

After enlisting in the Air Force, I was whisked away to Texas. From there it was on to Cheyenne, Wyoming, to take a two and a half year course as an instructor in heavy equipment. From there I ventured into the Aviation Cadet Program, an intensive one and a half year training course. I became a pilot and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant, and presented my wings and bars.

I met my wife, Connie, from Arlington, Virginia, in Washington, D. C. We got married and moved to Panama City, Florida, where I was assigned for the next six years as a Maintenance Flight Test Pilot. Four of our six children were born while we lived there. From there I was assigned to Syracuse, New York, and then was off to infamous Vietnam. While I was stationed in Vietnam, our fifth child was born, a son.

When I returned from Vietnam, we moved to Washington, D. C. where I was a Flight Examiner for four years. From there followed three fantastic years in Fairbanks, Alaska. Viewing all those glaciers from the skies is an awesome sight.

After being discharged from the Air Force with the rank of Major, we moved to Hudson, New Hampshire. I entered the civilian world again. For the next twenty years, I was employed by the Nashua Corporation in the Research & Development Department. While living in Hudson, Connie and were given the surprise of our lives. Connie said, "Guess what, Charley? I am pregnant." We were in our early forties when our last child, a son, was born.

We have six children (2 daughters, 4 sons), eleven grandchildren and a great grandchild is due to arrive next month. Like a lot of us now, we spend a lot of time with our children. Our youngest son, Bill, is an Air Force helicopter (Black Hawk) pilot who, thankfully, just arrived home from Afghanistan and has been promoted to the rank of Major. He lives in Georgia. Our daughter, Terry, is a Delta Airlines pilot via the Air Force Academy. Son, number one, Charley, Jr., is a computer designer, living in Orlando, Florida. Son, Timothy, is a teacher in New Hampshire. Laura, our oldest daughter, is a homemaker and her husband is employed as a FedEx pilot.

Jimmy, our most famous son, graduated from High School in '79. Just two days short of his eighteenth birthday, while swimming at Hampton Beach, he dove into a wave and became an instant quadriplegic. And what Jimmy has done with his life since that, twenty-three years ago, sets an example for us all. Believe it or not, he did manage to graduate from Arizona State

College and was employed by the Digital Corporation for five years. After being laid off, he now travels on a speech circuit throughout New England. He served in town politics as a School Board member and Chairman of the Rehabilitation Board. He is now making plans to live on his own. He is a computer whiz as well, and assists children in the high school. His accomplishments are so many that they are too numerous to mention here.

We are building a home in the Shenandoah Valley, 560 miles to the south. So if you are driving on Highway 81, in Virginia, and you need a rest or beverage, turn west and drive ten miles. We will leave the light on for you.

Joe (Bernie) Surrette
170 N. Yonge Street
Ormond Beach, Florida 32174

I was very disappointed that I was not able to attend the reunion, but a planned cruise occurred at the time.

First off, to confuse everyone, I should point out that shortly after graduation, I found out that my name was not Bernard, but Joseph. I am writing from my Florida residence and will attempt to put 55 years in as few paragraphs as possible.

After graduation in June, 1947, I enlisted in the Army Air Corps in August (This later became the USAF.) I remained in the service for seven years.

In 1951, I married a girl from Lowell and we had two children, a son and a daughter. Both are now married and have given us three granddaughters, ages 26, 16 and 13.

My wife and I took up residence in Lowell after leaving the Air Force. I then went to work for the Veteran's Administration Hospital in Bedford, Massachusetts, where I worked in Administration. I remained there for 28 ½ years, the last 14 as Chief, Patient Services. My wife, a nurse, also worked at the VA Hospital and retired in 1977 on a disability. I retired in 1984.

Since that time, I have occupied my time gardening, golfing and traveling with my wife. For the past thirteen years, we have wintered in Florida, golfing, traveling and just plain relaxing. So this has been the last 55 years in a nut shell.

Bernie Wagstaff
12 Pleasant Street
Wilmington, MA 01887

Hello former classmates,

My name is Bernie Wagstaff, and I am a member of the class of 1947 even though I didn't graduate with the class. I transferred to Malden in my last year, but I still feel that I am part of this class because I grew up with most of you starting back in the fifth grade at the Center School, now referred to as the Swain School.

My wife, Gertrude, came to Wilmington in her last year from Charlestown, and therefore, didn't get to know the class as well even though she graduated with you.

After I left school, I joined the U. S. Army and was sent down to Texas to help reactivate the famous 2nd Armored Division Hell on Wheels at Camp Hood, now called Fort Hood. I was assigned to the 67th medium tank battalion, which was later divided in half to reactivate the 82nd reconnaissance battalion. I then was transferred to the 82nd and became the motor pool sergeant of Company B. After a year in Texas, I was released from active duty and transferred into the active reserve. In October of 1950, I was recalled back to active duty three days before I was to be married to Gertrude Leverone. Of course, I was a little upset about this, but when duty calls you gotta go. I took the physical and all the other tests and was told I would be gone within fifteen days. Gertrude and I decided to get married anyway as long as the arrangements had already been made. We waited for my orders to come through, and we waited, and waited, and waited, and after three years and two kids later, I received my discharge from the U. S. Army.

I worked for Brockway-Smith Co. in Charlestown, days and the Gildart Chevrolet Co. nights in the fifties. I later went to work for the Gildart Chevrolet Co. in Wilmington, full time becoming the sales manager for the next twenty-six years. After the place closed, I opened my own auto repair business in North Wilmington and retired seventeen years later, leaving the business to my son Michael. I retired because Gertrude became very ill and needed constant care and there isn't anything or anyone more dear to me than Gertrude, my wife of fifty-three years coming up this year.

I spend some time tinkering with my '53 Chevrolet antique and going to the shows on the weekends.

I am a member of the Wilmington Rotary Club and have been for thirty years. I am also a Paul Harris Fellow from the Wilmington club. I am a member of the 2nd Armored Division Association and attend the reunion very year which has been held in Tennessee and South Carolina. I am a former member of the Chevrolet Legion of Leaders Club, a former member of the oldest club of it's kind in the automobile business, the Cheverolet Sales Managers Council #63 of the North Shore Dealers Association.

To sum up, Gertrude and I have been married fifty three years this October 15. We have four children, two girls and two boys, eight grandchildren, all boys. One graduated two years ago

from Assumption College, another will graduate this year from Assumption, another will be going into his third year at Amherst, another is in his third year at Tufts, another will enter his first year at Tufts this fall. The others are still in high school and elementary school.

As I said at the reunion, it was wonderful to see all the old classmates again and sad not to see the ones that have gone on before us. So until we meet again, thanks for the memories.

Josephine "Sis" Wandell Bell
413 Tulip Street
Walterboro, South Carolina 29488

I don't know whose idea this is but it's a great one. I look back at our graduation from Wilmington High School and realize how lucky we were to get such a great education.

Two years after graduation, I married Johnny Bell. He was a grade ahead of us but left school to go into the navy when he was seventeen years old. He was born in Glasgow, Scotland, but I soon learned that he must have been born to a band of gypsies, we moved so much.

John had a great career in the landscaping design and construction business. Under the Johnson administration, Mrs. Johnson invited him to the White House where he received an award for the beautification of the highways. Even now when we go to Boston, we still see some of his design work, very overgrown but still standing like living monuments.

We had eight children in eleven years. There are five girls and three boys. The last birth was twins. A girl and a boy. They are all doing well and have produced fourteen grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. They all live on the east coast, Ohio, North Carolina, South Carolina and the Florida Keys. On Thanksgiving we rent four houses on the beach here in Charleston and everyone that can, come, even some of the ex-son-in laws. Two years ago there were about 60 people for dinner. We made rules now and unless you pass a Bell D.N.A. test, you don't get any turkey. One year one of our granddaughters was married on the beach on Thanksgiving. Johnny built a gazebo for the minister and we made a path of candles leading to it. She got married at sunset and we have pictures of them standing at the altar with porpoises jumping in the background.

John and I have come full circle. When we were in our early forties, we bought a home in the Florida Keys and would winter there every year. We would take all the children out of school and enroll them in the Keys. We did this until the crunch came in the seventies and we sold everything and moved to the Keys full time. While we still lived in Massachusetts, we lived in Tewksbury, Winchester, Gloucester, York Harbor, Maine, and finally Ipswich. We would buy these old houses that no one wanted because they were so big, but ideal for our large family. I didn't realize until they were all grown up and telling stories that the children always thought they lived in haunted houses. In Winchester, I couldn't find one of the girls and she was in the service elevator that went between the floors. The other children were giving her rides.

When we first went to Florida, we did a lot of fishing, swimming, diving and sailing for about two years. We were only in our middle forties and were getting bored and realized that we would have to go back to work. John took the job as the County Biologist and I went to work at a local resort. The man that owned it made me the manager after a year and then left for Jamaica for a two-week vacation and never came back. He would call about once a month and ask if everything was alright. I think he was smoking those funny little cigarettes. The resort was so beautiful, on ten Acres on the Gulf of Mexico. On payday, I felt guilty getting my check. I felt like I should be paying the company for allowing me to work there. I was there for ten years.

When John and I were in our late fifties, we took a vacation to Mass to see my brother, Danny, and then on for a trip to Nova Scotia where we had been many times. We fell in love with a little farm that was for sale and bought it. It was eleven acres on a cove and three islands off the shore were part of it. We both left our jobs and moved to Nova Scotia for the summer. We restored the little farm housed and built a new cottage at the water's edge. We kept our house in Florida and spent ten years with six months at each place. Nova Scotia is beautiful but their socialized medicine is terrible. Even if you're willing to pay for services, you have to wait for any kind of treatment. I was diagnosed with breast cancer and we decided to move back to the states. We wanted to move somewhere close to all the children and Charleston, S. C. seemed to be the place. After seeing "Gone With The Wind" I always imagined that some day I would live on an old plantation in the South, sitting on a veranda, sipping mint juleps with a big straw hat and a flowing organdie gown. I never did get the hang of drinking and the gowns don't come in plus sizes so the only thing that fits me is the hat. The city was too busy for us so we moved into a little country home in Walterboro, fifty miles from Charleston.

On our fiftieth wedding anniversary, our children sent us on a trip to England and Scotland for three weeks. It was a wonderful vacation and we saw the little cottage John was born in at Glasgow.

John was told he has Alzheimer's a couple of years ago. He is doing great and is in a research group at the Medical University of S. C. They are doing wonders in this area with new medicines for slowing down the process of memory loss. I said when I moved here it would be my last move but now for health reasons, we feel we should be closer to Charleston and the good medical facilities. We have just bought a condo on the river and will move there this summer. John still likes to canoe and he stills plays tennis. Three of our daughters and three grandchildren will live close by. Now that John can't drive, and I'll be the first to admit that I'm not the best driver in the world, we should be closer to things. Our oldest daughter said she wished there was a number she could call when she knew we were coming to the city so everyone could get off the highway. When did the children become the parent?

When we got married, Lois Pilcher was one of my bridesmaids and a good friend. When she married she moved to California and I lost touch with her for about forty-five years. Two years ago she called me and had just moved to a town next to me. It is wonderful to have a good friend so close by. I also talk to Emily Clements Doucette every couple of weeks. She has always remained my sister that I never had. We have shared good times and sad times. I try to get to Wilmington once a year and get to spend some special time with Pat and Joe Gilligan. My brother, Danny, and wife, Betty, still live in Wilmington with their seven children and many grandchildren close by. We're about five minutes off Route 95 so we get some of our old Wilmington friends that travel to Florida every year to stop by.

We are enjoying life with all our family even though I have to remind Johnny what a great time we're having. We still go to the Florida Keys every winter, twenty miles from Key West, where our three sons, grandchildren and great-children live. One son has done very well in real estate in Florida, his siblings call him Dougie Trump, and he has built us a nice apartment next to his swimming pool. My daughter-in-law is as good to me as my own daughters and it is always a pleasure to be with them, plus they go out a lot for dinner.

All our children have remained close to each other. They have all been very good to us and we count on them now that we're getting older.

I feel that our generation can do anything. If we could bring up teen-agers in the sixties and make it, everything else is a piece of cake.

I hope Mrs. Webber is looking down on me and knows I finally learned how to type and Mr. Harvey knows I became a bookkeeper.

Best regards and good health to all.

Theodore Wicks
P. O. Box 701
Epping, NH 03042

Did you know I was born in Wilmington? I went all through school there right up through High School. Then it was on to Bentley College where I graduated in 1952. After college, I was employed by the A & P Tea Company in Wakefield.

Carl Woodman and Jack Reagan were instrumental in arranging a blind date for me with my wife, Beth McCall, from Winchester. We were married in 1952 and lived on Parker Street for two years before moving to our home at Hathaway Acres in North Wilmington. We have five children, two boys, three girls and eight grandchildren. We enjoyed many years of camping and skiing with our children as they were growing up.

A friend of Beth's bought an electronics company and he introduced me to the intricacies of his business. I became engrossed and moved into this field, working for several companies and also, on my own, repairing television sets, radios and other appliances.

After joining Middlesex Bank as their Accounting Manager, I retired from there in 1991.

For six years I was a member of the National Guard during the Korean conflict. Never activated, I journeyed to Camp Drum in New York once a year and one time to Camp Edwards on Cape Cod.

If you opened my closet door, you would find a whole raft of sports equipment there, a tennis racquet, golf clubs, baseballs, softballs, and bats. Yes, I do them all. Having played for six decades on the Wilmington baseball and softball teams certainly shows my love for the sport. We were charged annual fees of ten dollars for playing. My ten dollar fee was waived on my last year of play. My teammates surprised me by formally presenting me with my nicely framed ten dollar bill. It was an award given me for having played well beyond my years. I still play tennis and golf. Occasionally, I see John Elia on the golf course since we belong to the same club.

I retired in 1991 and sold my home in Wilmington, Beth and I now spend six months of the year at our Florida home and six months at our place (purchased in 1965) in Hedding Camp Meeting Association in Epping, New Hampshire. It is a Methodist campground dating back 140 years. I have kept busy at Hedding Association by serving at various times on the Board of Trustees, President of the Athletic Association and as their Auditor. Much to our delight, four of my children have purchased places there.

Beth and I took an extensive auto trip throughout the western part of the United States. We stopped in Scottsdale, Arizona with our good friends, Carl and Eleanor Woodman. We had a great time.

Beth was talking with our neighbor in Florida, from Ohio. Our neighbor told Beth about their having a reunion of all their townspeople at a fancy restaurant every year. Idea's clicked in

Beth's head and she discussed a more informal setting like a park. That was eleven years ago and ever since then, Beth and I have organized and held our own annual Wilmington Reunion Day in a nice picnic area in Tarpon Springs, Florida. Everyone from Wilmington is invited. Around one to two hundred people attend each year.

I have recently had surgery on my shoulder, rotator cuff, and am now recuperating in Florida and have sixteen weeks of therapy ahead of me. We will be heading for New Hampshire in a couple of weeks. I have had problems before, in '98 I had radiation for prostate cancer. But you can't keep a good man down. I will be back on the golf course before you know it.

My thanks to all those who worked in putting this book together. It is a great idea.

We Also Remember

Vincent Anomanisto

Alfred Balkus

Robert Blaisdell

Robert Bosteels

Richard Buck

RONald EATON

Joseph Hardy

Roberta Hillis Standish

Marjorie Johnston Dyas

Frederick Lilley

Elizabeth Melzar Pullen

Barbara Murray Griffin

Phyllis O'Leary

Dorothy Oman Jensen

William Peters

Shirley Quigg Smith

John Reagan

Robert Soule

Rufus Stevens

Robert Swain

Mildred Waisner Cavanaugh

Julia Webber Fielding

James Welling

Robert Bostkels
Vincent Anomanisto
Richard Buck
John Elia
Robert Findlay
Rufus Stevens
Everett McQuaid
Robert Soule
Sidney Kaizer
Bernard Surrette
Marjorie Johnston
Shirley Quigg
William Finney
Theodore Wicks
Albert Manson
Earle Gates
Phyllis O'Leary
HIGH SCHOOL
Josephine Wandell
Joseph Hardy
Norman Arbo
Gertrude Leverone
Jean Gearty
Charlotte Moore
Mildred Waisnor
Joseph Gilligan
Elizabeth Huntley
Nancy Noble
Doroth Smith
Catherine Murray
Doroth Connolly
Emily Clements
Jean Burbine
James Welling
Eleanor Preston
Mary Bemis
Ann Palmer
Julia Webber
Robert Swain
Bernice Dourette
Verda Johnson
Alice Rooney
Geraldine Fitch
Frederick Lilley
Estella Downs
J. Turner Hood, Jr., Principal
Class of 1947
Wilmington High School
Geraldine Porter, Secy.
Burtt Holmes, Vice Pres.
Dorothy Oman
Purdy

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